

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An EMI gasket mechanism for sealing a space anterior to a surface, thereby inhibiting or preventing passage of EMI radiation through the space, the EMI gasket mechanism comprising:
 - a first jaw;
 - a second jaw spaced apart from the first jaw by a distance, the first and second jaws defining a region therebetween;
 - a resilient EMI gasket disposed in the region between the first and second jaws;
 - and
 - an actuator operably linked to the first and second jaws and configured to reduce the distance between the first and second jaws when the actuator is activated, thereby squeezing the resilient EMI gasket between the first and second jaws and causing a portion of the resilient EMI gasket to protrude, whereby the protruding portion of the resilient EMI gasket is forced into contact with the surface, thereby sealing the space anterior to the surface against passage of EMI radiation.
2. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the first jaw has an outer edge and, when the actuator is activated and the resilient EMI gasket is squeezed between the first and second jaws, the resilient EMI gasket protrudes beyond the outer edge of the first jaw.
3. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the first jaw has an outer edge and the second jaw has an outer edge and, when the actuator is activated and the resilient EMI gasket is squeezed between the first and second jaws, the resilient EMI gasket protrudes beyond the outer edge of the first jaw and beyond the outer edge of the second jaw.
4. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a cam-lever.
5. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a threaded shaft.

6. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, further comprising a stop adjacent the resilient EMI gasket, wherein, when the actuator is activated and the resilient EMI gasket is squeezed between the first and second jaws, the stop limits protrusion of the resilient EMI gasket in a direction away from the surface.

5 7. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the first jaw comprises a stepped plate.

8. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the second jaw comprises a compression ring.

9. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 1, wherein the first jaw comprises the surface.

10 10. An EMI gasket mechanism for sealing a space anterior to a surface, thereby inhibiting or preventing passage of EMI radiation through the space, the EMI gasket mechanism comprising:

an inflatable resilient EMI gasket;

a pump in fluid communication with the inflatable resilient EMI gasket; and

15 an actuator operably linked to the pump and configured to operate the pump when the actuator is activated, thereby inflating the resilient EMI gasket and causing a portion of the resilient EMI gasket to protrude, whereby the protruding portion of the resilient EMI gasket is forced into contact with the surface, thereby sealing the space anterior to the surface against passage of EMI radiation.

11. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 10, wherein the actuator comprises a cam-lever.

12. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 10, wherein the actuator comprises a threaded shaft.

13. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 10, wherein the pump comprises a bladder and the actuator is configured to squeeze the bladder when the actuator is activated.

14. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 10, wherein the pump comprises a piston and the actuator is configured to move the piston when the actuator is activated.

15. The EMI gasket mechanism of Claim 10, further comprising a stop adjacent the resilient EMI gasket, wherein, when the actuator is activated and the resilient EMI gasket is inflated, the stop limits protrusion of the resilient EMI gasket in a direction away from the surface.
- 5 16. A method of sealing a space anterior to a surface, thereby inhibiting or preventing passage of EMI radiation through the space, comprising:
positioning a resilient EMI gasket in the space anterior to the surface; and
squeezing the resilient EMI gasket, thereby causing a portion of the resilient EMI gasket to protrude and contact the surface.
- 10 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the squeezing the resilient EMI gasket comprises operating a cam-lever.
18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the squeezing the resilient EMI gasket comprises rotating a threaded shaft.
- 15 19. The method of Claim 16, further comprising limiting protrusion of the resilient EMI gasket in a direction away from the surface.
20. A method of sealing a space anterior to a surface, thereby inhibiting or preventing passage of EMI radiation through the space, comprising:
positioning an inflatable resilient EMI gasket in the space anterior to the surface;
and
20 inflating the inflatable resilient EMI gasket, thereby causing a portion of the inflatable resilient EMI gasket to protrude and contact the surface.
21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the inflating the inflatable resilient EMI gasket comprises squeezing a bladder that is in fluid communication with the inflatable resilient EMI gasket.
- 25 22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the inflating the inflatable resilient EMI gasket comprises operating a piston pump that is in fluid communication with the inflatable resilient EMI gasket.
23. The method of Claim 20, wherein the inflating the inflatable resilient EMI gasket comprises operating a cam-lever.

24. The method of Claim 20, wherein the inflating the inflatable resilient EMI gasket comprises rotating a threaded shaft.
25. The method of Claim 20, further comprising limiting protrusion of the inflatable resilient EMI gasket in a direction away from the surface.
- 5 26. A method of installing a device in a housing, wherein installation of the device requires sealing a space between the device and a mating surface on the housing or on an adjacent device against passage of EMI radiation through the space, comprising:
inserting the device into the housing; and
after inserting the device into the housing, actuating an EMI gasket mechanism
10 that does not rely on insertion force applied to the device.
27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the device includes the EMI gasket mechanism.
28. The method of Claim 26, wherein the housing includes the EMI gasket mechanism.
29. The method of Claim 26, further comprising:
positioning a resilient EMI gasket in the space;
15 wherein the actuating the EMI gasket mechanism comprises squeezing the resilient EMI gasket, thereby causing a portion of the resilient EMI gasket to protrude and contact the mating surface.
30. The method of Claim 26, further comprising:
positioning an inflatable resilient EMI gasket in the space;
20 wherein the actuating the EMI gasket mechanism comprises inflating the inflatable resilient EMI gasket, thereby causing a portion of the inflatable resilient EMI gasket to protrude and contact the mating surface.